che Story of Hunch Badeau

By Samuel Merwin.

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four months Badeau heard of him and mamie only in a round about way. One manie only in a round about way. One for a moment on his. day toward the close of September, Badeau met him on the road.

Opened the gate, "you've got the key."

Hunch came back, a little confused, and took her key from his pocket. He tried to unlock the door and they both laughed when he got the key stuck in the lock.

"My! your hands are cold," she said. He took hold of her hand and replied, "Mine ain't so cold as yours."

"All right. How's yourself?"
"Fine. Why ain't you been round to see us. We're keeping house."
"I dunno. Ain't had much time."
"How're you getting along any house."
"Say," she gold ""."

Hunch gripped his hand and went away.

That evening when Hunch went around to see Jess he was depressed. The thought of Mamie's suffering stood in his way whenever he tried to respond to Jess's sallies. As the evening went on Hinch's mood grew worse. Jess went into a sulk later. When he dropped a careless remark that hurt her pride she grew angry.

"What's the matter, Jess?" Hunch said at last.

"I guess you know."

"I don't believe you want me here."

"Oh, you can go if you want to."

Hunch looked at her, vaguely conscious that he had been unkind; but he went away without kissing her good night.

One morning a day or two later he

gee us. We're keeping house."
"I dunno. Ain't had much time."
"How're you getting along, any how, Hunch? How's the old dean?"
"First class."
"Well, say, come up and see us. Come tonight. Mamie was asking about you the other day."
Badeau spent a long evening at Bruce's cottage, and had a good time. A week later he went again. Through the autumn, as the weather grew heavy, and lake trips hecame more un
"I dunno. When do you think?"
"I dunno. When do you think?"
"Mame asked me if we were coming there tomorrow night."
"Do you want to?"
"Do you want to?"
"Yes, if you do."
"All right, I'll be ready."
In a week it was generally known that Hunch Badeau was "going with Jess Bartlett." Bruce and Mamie poked "It's all right, Hunch; it's all right!



PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND HER, HUNCH, AND TAKE IT.

cettain, he took to spending the evening with them as often as he could. Manne was pretiter than ever, with a peared very well as the head of a household. They played cards a good of a while Hunch found of times. After a household. They played cards a good of a while Hunch found of times. After a household. They played cards a good of a while Hunch found of times. After a household. They played cards a good of a while Hunch found of times. After a household. They played cards a good of a while Hunch found of times. After a household with the supper with them.

One evening late in October, when he had been a supported in the supper with them.

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in check did not effort to hold himself in check did not health and spirit. She admired unch's bigness and strength and made ich an effort to be agreeable that bere they had finished their long walk Bruce's house they felt pretty well quainted. The evening that followed is different from those Hunch had in spending at Bruce's. There was re gayety and brightness. Jess knew it she was in a sense on parade and. one they had finished their long walk are bruce's house they felt pretty well adjusted. The evening that followed was different from those Hunch had been spending at Bruce's. There was more gayety and brightness. Jess knew hat she was in a sense on parade and is Mamie confided to Hunch, she kept hand hen Mamie made molasses candy and mi mpromptu candy pull took place in he kitchen. Once Jess slipped Hunch's carf pin from his tie, and Bruce and damie laughed knowingly at Hunch's diamsy efforts to take it away from her. Finally she fied into the corner and held the pin behind her with both lands. He hesitated before her and bruce called. "Oh, Hunch, you're slow," thereupon Mamie blushed and laughed not Jess blushed and tossed her head to Hunch put both arms around her, but she struggled for some time before got the pin away from her face, and Mamie whispered to Hunch, "Ain't she pretty, though."

The night was dark and on the way yome Jess slipped her hand through his rm. Now that they were away from he others Hunch was embarrassed.

"I never knew you were like this," he said.

"How do you mean?"

"Why, I don't know. I always heard

They walked to Bruce's and sat for an hour in the living room. Mamie was too sick to see them, but Bruce opened the door into her so that she could hear their voices. Bruce was bubbling over with happiness. When he finally brought out the baby, a sickly little thing, he was laughing out loud. Jess took it in her arms.

"My, ain't it light?" she said.

"Six pounds," said Bruce.

"What's her name going to be?"

"Dunno yet. Mame wants to name it after her mother."

"John," said Jess, "take her just a minute. She's such a funny little thing."

Hunch moved away and shook his

head. This made Bruce and Jess laugh.
For the rest of the evening Hunch
was thoughtful. His manner subdued
Jess, and they walked home with little to say.

The following night as Hunch was

The following night as Hunch was coming away from Bartlett's, he met Jess' brother on the street.

"Hello, Hunch," said Jim. "Say, if you want to see a circus you ought to go down to Herve's place."

"Why, what's up?"

"Bruce Considine's celebrating."

"What—drinking?"

"Yes: he's got a peach of a jag already."

dropped into a chair, flushed and exceed the form of the control o

"Get on now." Bruce went out, talking to himself.

CHAPTER VII.

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Mamie grew slowly better, but the baby was kept alive only by constant attention. Hunch did not go to the house at all. Jess suggested it once or twice, but it made Hunch look so black that she began to avoid the subject. For the rest of the time Hunch was in betetr spirits than usual. After the night with Bruce he had made up his mind to drop Bruce and his family from his mind. He had no right to interfere in Bruce's domestic matters. The decision brought relief, and Jess and he were happier than at any time since the beginning of their engagement. They spent their evenings going to entertainments or sitting in the parior, talking, with the lamp turned low.

One night Hunch came in a little earlier than usual, without knocking, and found Jess bending over a paper with sort of colored illustrations. She slipped it into a drawer as he entered the room.

"What you realing?" he asked.

went into the jewelry store hear the postoffice and looked at rings. There was one large ring with two diamonds set in a snake's head.

"How much is it?" Hunch asked.

"Ninety dollars. Best ring we've got. There ain't another like it this side of Grand Rapids."

"That's the one I want, then," said Hunch. "Will you put it by for me?"

"All right, Mr. Badeau, we'll put it aside for you."

By a second loan Hunch had let Bruce have nearly all his ready money, so that he lacked a large part of the swalking slowly down the street when he met Jim Bartlett.

"Hello, Jim."

"Say, come into Herve's a minute. I want to see you."

"Till give you my note. That's about all I can do."
"Not much you won't. You just take it and pay when you can, and don't you say nothing about it."
"For a few days there was gloom at Bruce's cottage. Once Hunch went around and was met at the door by Bruce who looked wonout Mamile, but Bruce came out and drew the door."
"In thirt hard, Hunch, it ain't though me you want to do, lie to her?"
"What do you want to do, lie to her?"
"What do you want to do, lie to her?"
"It ain't that, Hunch, it ain't the other in a day or so."
Hunch marked up and dawn to do, lie to her?"
"It ain't that, Hunch, it ain't the same, if I away."
"What do you want to do, lie to her?"
"It ain't that, Hunch, it ain't the same, if I away."
"What do you want to do, lie to her?"
"It ain't that, Hunch, it ain't the same, if I away."
"What do you want to do, lie to her?"
"It ain't that, Hunch, it ain't the same, if I sain't doing the said. She said if a man really loves a girl he side of the something, so folks all the same, if I law to take you myself."
"What and I'l learn him he can't cut tho know it, and I'l learn him he can't cut the said of the sain, so folks all the same, if I law to take you myself."
"What and and want the floor. "Hunch was it men and down the floor. "That's your business, Bruce. It sin't for men and down the floor. "That's your business, but he was my man for know it, and if he ain't doing the said. She said if a man really loves a girl he side. After a pause. When the said of the said is the said if a man really loves a girl he side. After a pause. When the said of the said is the said if a man really loves a girl he something. She laughed nervously. "She laughed nervously." She laughed nervously. "And I just took at me, when the said of the said is the said if a man really loves a girl he said of the said o

"Bruce—"
"Bruce—"
"Bruce—"
"Why don't you come when he's ere? Why don't you wait and talk to tim?"
Hunch sat still looking at her. He had nothing to say.

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